

Air Force Prime Time, a weekly news magazine for and about airmen stationed overseas, airs Thursday evenings at 8:25 p.m. Central European Time on AFN television. In this week's edition, a small Romanian town gets a visit from Air Force medics, personalizing medical care in the Air Force, combat arms training at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, and more.



News briefs

Family day postponed

Due to mission requirements, the 52nd Fighter Wing commander postponed the family day scheduled for Monday.

Road closure

The road linking L-46 to B-50, leading to Herforst, Zemmer and Orenhofen, is closed for repavement through Oct. 13. Travelers should detour through Binsfeld and expect additional travel time to the base.

Tax deadline

The deadline to electronically file 1999 Federal Income Tax returns is today. Afterward, people can still receive assistance in filing paper federal or state returns in the base tax shelter. The tax shelter closes Monday through Oct. 20, but reopens for assistance Oct. 24. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday.

Station closure

The base military service station closes at 5 p.m. today through Monday. Vehicle operators should ensure all government vehicles scheduled for use during this time have the gas tanks filled by Sept. 29. Emergency response vehicles requiring fuel should call 452-6621 for instructions. Call Staff Sgt. Douglas Beck at 452-7656 for details.

Heat in housing

Civil engineers began turning on heat in Spangdahlem and Bitburg family housing. CE expects to have heat to all housing units by Monday.

Command selections

Col. Chuck Mackett, 52nd Medical Group deputy commander; Lt. Col. John Medlin, 52nd Logistics Group deputy commander; and Col. Allen Wickman, Allied Forces North, Brunssum, the Netherlands; were recently selected as wing or group commander

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Eifel Times

Vol. 34, Issue 36

Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

Sept. 29, 2000



Airman 1st Class Michelle Roquid

Members of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Group, deployed from Spangdahlem, park an A-10 aircraft after its arrival at Al Jaber Air Base, Kuwait, for Air Expeditionary Force rotation 9. About 120 members of the 81st Fighter Squadron deployed to Al Jaber in August and are scheduled to return in December.

Air Force continues working expeditionary force concept

WASHINGTON — As Air Expeditionary Forces 9 and 10 enter the last phase of the first 15-month cycle under the Expeditionary Aerospace Force concept, Air Force officials are taking stock of the process and making a few adjustments where needed to ensure a smooth transition for the second cycle.

The Air Force launched the EAF concept Oct. 1, 1999, as a means to bring predictability and stability to Air Force members and their families. The AEFs are essentially a force management tool that helps the Air Force spread its capability more evenly across the total force; active duty, Guard and Reserve.

Members of the 52nd Fighter Wing are currently deployed as part of AEF 9. Members departed in the beginning of September to three main locations. The 22nd Fighter Squadron is deployed to Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia, the 81st Fighter Squadron is deployed to Al Jaber, Kuwait and the 606th Air Control Squadron is deployed to Ali Al Salem, Kuwait.

"My general impression is that the Air Expeditionary Force is

going very well," said Brig. Gen. Dennis Larsen, commander of the AEF Center, Langley Air Force Base, Va.

"There are some growing pains, but any time you make a transition that is this major and involves an organization as big as the Air Force, there are bound to be some problem areas, but we're solving them."

He said one of the biggest successes so far is in the notification process. Before AEFs 5 and 6, notifications went out 15 days before people actually deployed. But the general said for the second cycle starting Dec. 1, the notification went out 120 days prior; "so we gained about a 10-fold improvement in our ability to get that information to our airmen; just from AEFs 5 and 6 in the first cycle to AEFs 1 and 2 in the second cycle.

"The 120-days advance notification is what we're shooting for," the general said.

See AEF, Page 2

Earn extra cash by sharing money saving ideas

By Tech. Sgt. Rich Romero
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Spending time on the web from a desktop computer at work doesn't usually put money in the bank, unless the time is spent submitting suggestions to the IDEA program.

Now fully paperless, the Innovative Development through Employee Awareness program pays a minimum \$200 and a maximum \$10,000 for approved ideas, even for intangible suggestions, said Staff Sgt.

Corwin Walks, IDEA program manager.

To increase awareness of the program at Spangdahlem Air Base, manpower and organization holds an IDEA campaign drive and competition Sunday through Oct. 31. During the campaign, units compete against each other for the most eligible ideas submitted. Trophies will be awarded in three categories: large unit, 101 or more people assigned; small unit, 100 or less people; and an individual award for the person with the most eligible submissions.

"Eligible ideas are those which supervisors determined to be credible for the IDEA program," Walks said.

To assist people and units in competing, as well as to educate them on the submission process, Walks offers training. Call 452-6468 to schedule training sessions.

"We want to increase awareness, interject new and innovative ideas and highlight this as a serious program," Walks said. "That's why we came up with this

campaign. We also want people to have fun in a friendly competition, hence the trophies.

"More importantly, there's money out there to be made."

In fiscal 2000, 138 IDEAs were submitted by people of Spangdahlem Air Base. Of those, 76 were approved. The 52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron lead the way with 33

See IDEA, Page 2

Car accidents continue to occur around Spang

By Gertrud Fandel

52nd Security Forces Squadron reports and analysis

The following major vehicle accidents involving people from Spangdahlem Air Base occurred in the Eifel region Sept. 19 through Tuesday.

■ A military member driving a Ford and a German national in a BMW collided head on while traveling on L-32/B-51 near Neustrassburg. The accident caused about \$8,500 in damages to both vehicles.

■ A military member operating a 1990 Honda was traveling on L-43 approaching the T-intersection at L-141 near Dreis when he overshot the intersection, traveling across L-141 into a ditch and totaled the vehicle.

Don't forget to wear reflective belts during hours of darkness and poor visibility, and, more importantly, buckle up.

In addition, there were 13 minor accidents causing about \$13,000 in total damages:

■ Seven accidents occurred off base.

■ Two were too fast for conditions (on wet or rainy roads).

■ Five accidents occurred on base, two involved government vehicles and four took place in or entering into parking lots.

■ Five involved speeds slower than 30 mph.



Courtesy photo

Recruiting opportunity

The Recruit-the-Recruiter team, Air Force Recruiting Service, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, conducts a briefing for senior airmen through master sergeants at 9 a.m. Thursday in the Spang Club. An interview session follows at 1 p.m. The briefing focuses on recruiting duty opportunities, challenges and rewards. Call 452-6725 for details.

AEF

Continued from Page 1

Another area Larsen said the Air Force is making improvements in is the shortfall or reclama rates. "This is where a unit is tasked for a requirement in the area of responsibility and can't fill it," he said. "We have to go back out and find someone else in the Air Force who can fill it.

"We started out with about 3.2 percent of our taskings coming back as shortfalls in AEFs 5 and 6, but, so far, currently we're down to 0.5 percent for AEFs 1 and 2 for the second cycle. This is a significant improvement and certainly a lot more promising than what we had earlier."

Another move the Air Force has made as it transitions to the second cycle is lengthening the deployments of the on-call

aerospace expeditionary wings. The AEWs will go from 90 days to 120 days, the general said.

Under the 90-day period, the AEW commanders discovered the off period didn't give them enough time to recover and prepare to go back on call. "So wing commanders wanted to lengthen the tour so they now have 120 days when they're off call so they have more time to do all the training, TDYs and other things they need to do to be proficient at their jobs," he said. This also rotates who is on call for the holiday and summer season.

"These are all important changes that made sense to do," the general said. "Obviously, the most important thing as we go from cycle to cycle is to continuously improve the process, keeping in mind that predictability is a key thing we're driving

for."

He said a big improvement for the second cycle is an EAF online web site, <http://aefcenter.acc.af.mil/>. Airmen can access individualized "training templates" to obtain information about their deployed job description and mission, even the equipment they'll be working with.

He added as people are tasked for their 120-day deployments, everyone must keep in mind this does not include number of days spent traveling in and out of the area of responsibility. "People will most likely be staying beyond 120 days, for traveling and some overlap."

"Overall, the feedback has been pretty positive," Larsen said. "Folks are learning what AEFs they're in, when they're deploying and we expect to see big improvements in Cycle 2."

IDEA

Continued from Page 1

submissions.

"That's a more than 50 percent approval rate," Walks said. "The odds are in your favor."

The total pay-out on the base for this fiscal year was \$37,000, with a savings to the Air Force of nearly \$300,000. In May, an NCO

with the 52nd Component Repair Squadron hit the \$10,000 jackpot for his idea to locally repair F-16 engine parts. Many more have cashed in on \$200, \$400 and \$600 cash awards.

To submit IDEAs go to <https://ideas.satx.disa.mil/>; however, people need to reconfigure their browser first. To do so, go to the Intranet site, click on "fighter

wing offices," click "manpower and organization," select "option 7" or "option 8" depending upon the browser being used.

The program is available to everyone — active duty, Reserve, Guard, federal civilian employees, retirees, family members, private citizens and direct-hire of non-U.S. citizens. Unfort-unately, non-appropriated fund employees, family members and private

citizens aren't eligible for monetary awards, Walks said. Instead, they receive certificates or letters of appreciation.

"We know there are people out there with excellent ideas," Walks said. "The Air Force knows that, and now there's a tool available to implement them."

Briefs

Continued from Page 1

candidates by the 2000 Command Screening Board.

Officers selected to command by the CSB will be placed on a command candidate list. This list will be given to major command and staff agencies which will select officers to fill

their command assignments. Once complete, the Air Force chief of staff will approve the list. Public release takes place by January.

The 2000 board consisted of 19 general officers, including a four-star board president and each of the MAJCOM vice commanders or their representative. It screened more than 1,500 records and selected 315 candidates to

fill 223 command positions.

Holiday greetings

A video team from the Army and Air Force Hometown News Agency visits the Eifel next week to videotape holiday greetings of service members, their families and Defense

Department U.S. civilian employees. Taping sessions take place 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday and Tuesday in Hangar 1.

Appointments will be scheduled in five-minute increments throughout each day. Call the 52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs at 452-4251 for appointments.

European market impacts fuel cost at AAFES pumps

By Juan R. Melendez Jr.
 26th Area Support Group Herald-Post

RHEIN-MAIN AIR BASE, Germany — Gas prices got you down? Convinced that AAFES is hitting you in the pocketbook?

Alas, today's prices are a reflection of the sky-high oil prices on the world market, and if the price at the AAFES gas station pump is higher than what your folks in the states are paying, it's a result of the exchange service's costs in acquiring the fuel and running its gas stations and coupon program.

The high oil prices should be no secret to anyone by now. Newspaper headlines point to "10-year high" in the cost of crude oil and protests by fishermen and truckers in France fill the evening news.

This higher cost for oil inevitably shows up at the pump wherever you are. But how come we pay more than lots of folks in the states?

According to an AAFES-Europe release, the Aug. 11 Lundberg Survey gave the average price of a gallon of gasoline in the U.S. (all types) as \$1.53, while the price at your local AAFES gas station last month for unleaded normal was \$1.91, a 38-cent difference. Several things contribute to that difference.

For starters, AAFES buys its gas for stations in Germany from European suppliers at European market prices, which are higher than in the U.S.

Then, AAFES must add on the cost of operating gas stations and of running the gas coupon system, which allows military travelers to gas up at the Esso stations and at BP stations on the autobahn.

Because it's an agency that contributes greatly to military communities' quality of life, AAFES keeps open some 200 facilities whose profits are marginal or that even lose money.

Additionally, part of the AAFES mark-up includes funds that are donated to Army morale, welfare and recreation and to Air Force services.

What does the future hold? It's hard to say, but the signs are positive. Members of the Organization of Oil-exporting



Senior Airman Jennifer Lindsey

Staff Sgt. Barry Perkins, dining facility manager Buechel Air Base, Germany, fills his vehicle's gas tank before returning home.

Countries agreed to step up production to try to bring the cost of crude oil down.

Suppliers set prices for a particular month, so there is always a slight delay in changes of the pump price.

AAFES is also working with Esso Germany to develop an electronic card system to replace the paper coupon system.

This wouldn't only save costs - and lower the price of AAFES gas - but it would allow drivers to "fill 'er up," as they would in the states, instead of watching the gauge anxiously to make sure they pump just the exact number of liters they have coupons for.

And, if the AAFES price still seems high, check out the prices at German gas stations. Non-identification card drivers are paying about twice as much as we are for the same fuel.

CFC makes helping others easy

Compiled from staff reports

The annual Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas begins Oct. 2 and continues through Nov. 17.

This year's theme, "Make a World of Difference . . . Give to the CFC," touches on the heart of the event which raises thousands of dollars for overseas installation family support youth activity programs and U.S. and international charitable organizations.

Last year, Eifel community members contributed about \$186,000 to the military community's combined donation of more than \$9 million.

"This year's local goal is to raise \$298,000 and to make 100 percent contact, giving everyone the opportunity to donate to their favorite charity," said 1st Lt. James Marsh, base CFC chairman.



During the campaign, potential donors have the option to designate contributions to charities of their choice through one-time donations or payroll deduction.

"There are more than a thousand charitable organizations to choose from," said Senior Master Sgt. Richard Aldridge, base CFC co-chairman. "But, if a person wants to simply donate some cash, that money will go toward local projects,

including base playgrounds and youth programs."

The Combined Federal Campaign is the largest public sector fund-raising campaign in the world, according to CFC officials. The fund-raising event started in the 1960s as the need to collect numerous charitable campaigns under one umbrella creating one campaign for federal employees was noted.

"In making a CFC pledge, you continue America's custom of selflessly caring for others," said William Cohen, CFC-O campaign chairman and secretary of defense.

Visit the Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas Web site at www.cfccoverseas.org or unit representatives for more information.

Class graduates 47 senior airman EMS troop earns honors as Levitow award winner

By Staff Sgt. Mary Sneed
 Airman Leadership School

Senior Airman Michael Lockard came away with top honors among 47 students graduating from Airman Leadership School, Class 00-7.

During the graduation ceremony Sept. 14, the 52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron airman received the John Levitow Award.

Distinguished graduates were Senior Airmen Robert McNair, 752nd Munitions Support Squadron; Jared Moran, 52nd Security Forces Squadron; Tracy Driggers, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron; and Joseph Segura, 81st Fighter Squadron. Driggers also earned the leadership award while Senior Airman Richard Gordon, 52nd EMS, took the academic achievement award.

Other senior airmen graduating from the class were:

■ **Eagle Flight:** Ruben Lopez, class leader, 52nd Supply Squadron; Romeo Casuga Jr. flight leader, 22nd Fighter Squadron; Angela Dawn Bailey, 52nd Mission Support Squadron; Pauline Bray, 52nd Transportation Squadron; Brian Cross, 23rd Fighter Squadron; Mark Estorga, 52nd Dental Squadron; David Fortune, 52nd Operations Support Squadron; Jeremy Gerrish, Allied Forces North, Brunssum, the Netherlands; Raymond Gills, 52nd EMS; Marcal McLaurin, 52nd Communications Squadron; Jared Moran, 52nd SFS; Michael Osborne, 52nd CES; Steven Russell, 606th Air Control Squadron; Frank Sykes, 752nd Munitions Support Squadron, Volkel Air Base, the Netherlands; Jeffrey Tagle, 52nd CES; and David Whetzel, 52nd Communication Squadron.

■ **Falcon Flight:** Kevin Dozier, flight leader, U.S. Air Force in Europe postal squadron, Brussels City, Belgium; Daniel Behm, 52nd EMS; Thomas Coffman, 52nd TRANS; Gregory Fentress, 606th ACS; Carla Green, 52nd Medical Support Squadron; Mark Hiers, 52nd CS; Randy Houghton, 52nd EMS; Denise Johnson, 52nd MSS; Kelvin Leggett, Allied Forces North, NATO headquarters, Brunssum; Robert McNair, 752nd MUNSS; Gregory Neuberger, 852nd Munitions Support Squadron, Buechel Air Base, Germany; Derrick Powell, 52nd Component Repair Squadron; Joseph Segura, 81st FS; and Benjamin Weaver, 23rd FS.

■ **Warthog Flight:** Veeta Rose, flight leader, 52nd Medical Group; Michael Bates, 23rd FS; Sean Burridge, Office of the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, special operations, SHAPE, Belgium; Chase Duffer, 52nd Munitions Support Squadron, Kleine Brogel Air Base, Belgium; Eric Franklin, 52nd MUNSS; Brian Hendon, 52nd Services Squadron; William Hilton, 52nd CS; Robert Lamb, 52nd CES; Michael Moser, 22nd FS; John Osborne, 23rd FS; Steven Smith, 52nd CRS; Jason Spaulding, 52nd Supply Squadron; Dennis Torres, 23rd FS; and Thomas Ward, 52nd Medical Support Squadron.



Senior Airman Jennifer Lindsey

Donna Kirtley-Hoffman, MCCS warehouse manager, inventories men's blue dress shirts. Most military uniform item prices remain the same or reduce slightly Sunday.

Uniform prices drop on some issue items

Compiled by staff reports

The Defense Supply Center Philadelphia considers military uniform prices annually and raises or lowers the price of individual items based on the cost of materials, distribution and storage.

This year is no exception with items rising or lowering in price by a few cents or dollars.

Here's a look at a cost comparison of a basic dress uniform before and after the change takes effect Oct. 1:

On Sept. 30, the cost for a women's long-sleeved shirt, neck tab, slacks and black Oxford shoes cost \$75.55. The same uniform items purchased after the annual price adjustment will be \$72.15 - a difference of \$3.40.

Other items decreasing in price include service and all-weather coats.

The DSCP adjusts prices every fiscal year, but prices may adjust again in January, according to Chuck Harper, Spangdahlem Military Clothing Sales Store manager.

"This year, it looks like most of the prices either stay the same or go down slightly," Harper said. "That's good news we want to get out to all our customers."

While AAFES sells issue military clothing at cost, according to DSCP officials, other optional uniform items are sold at normal markup with earnings benefitting morale, welfare and recreation programs.

Base clothing sales also has Gortex all-weather jackets available, just in time for the autumn weather change, priced at \$154.30.

Locate personal vehicle shipment by accessing information highway

By Rudi Williams
American Forces Press Service

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — It used to be service members who shipped privately owned vehicles to Europe never knew where their wheels were until the freighter arrived at Bremerhaven, Germany. And that could take several weeks.

Then, they had to catch the "duty train" or hitch a ride to Bremerhaven to claim their vehicles and drive them back to their home station. That's all past now.

Nowadays, the Military Traffic Management Command in Alexandria, Va., uses computers and the Internet to ensure customers can locate their vehicles 24 hours a day. And it's easy. All they have to do is visit the "where is my POV?" Web site at www.wherismypov.com and enter their order number and last name. Presto! Their vehicle's location appears on the computer monitor.

If members prefer, they can obtain the same information by calling the toll-free phone number of their nearest vehicle-processing center.

That's just two of several customer-pleasing features in DOD's Global POV Single Contractor Program implemented on Nov. 1, 1998, according to Charles Helfrich, a team leader and traffic management specialist.

The new system has proven to be a customer pleaser because it's faster, easier to use and more efficient. More than 75,000 vehicles pass through the command's full-service POV service sites worldwide every year.

"We ship to any country in the world where Americans are stationed, including to countries where we don't have much presence, like Israel, Ecuador and Russia," Helfrich noted. "But the main focus is on Europe - Italy, Germany, Turkey, England and Spain."

In Germany, processing centers are in Baumholder, Boeblingen, Grafenwoehr, Kaiserslautern, Mannheim, Schweinfurt, Spangdahlem and Wiesbaden. Italy has four centers: Aviano, Livorno and Vicenza in the north and Naples in the south, and satellite sites at Sigonella and La Maddalena in

the south.

Vehicle processing centers are also in Schinnen, the Netherlands, and Chievres, Belgium. Spain has a center outside the naval base at Rota and a satellite site in Seville. England has a main center at Lakenheath/Mildenhall and satellites at West Ruislip, St. Mawgan and Menwith Hill.

There are also vehicle-processing sites in South Korea, Guam and Puerto Rico.

Helfrich said nearly 20,000 vehicles are shipped between the continental U.S. and Hawaii each year.

Generally, all vehicles destined for Northern Europe are shipped to Bremerhaven and then trucked to the processing centers or satellites closest to customers' home stations, he noted.

He said center transportation officers arrange for owners to be present when their vehicles arrive. They conduct a joint inspection with the truck driver. On their return trips, truckers deliver outgoing vehicles to the Bremerhaven docks.

Helfrich said most DOD shipments are full-service movements, meaning one contractor is responsible for the entire movement of the vehicle. Under the old system, up to nine independent contractors might handle a vehicle - so many people that DoD officials often had nightmares trying to determine responsibility in loss and damage cases.

The new system handles movement of vehicles for military personnel and civilian employees, including nonappropriated fund employees and DoD Dependent Schools system teachers. They are limited to one vehicle that doesn't exceed a specified weight limit.

Directions and maps to the processing centers and more detailed information on shipping a vehicle can be found at <http://144.101.37.133/property/vpc/default>. MTMC's vehicle shipment Web site at <http://144.101.37.133/property/vpc/default.htm>. Also available at the site for more detailed information is the pamphlet "Shipping Your POV." The booklet is downloadable as a .pdf file and requires the Adobe Acrobat Reader plug-in to view.

First group retires under High Three plan

WASHINGTON — Twenty years after the High Three retirement plan became law, the first Air Force members affected by the plan are eligible to retire beginning Oct. 1.

The High Three plan was authorized under the fiscal year 1981 National Defense Authorization Act and took effect Sept. 8, 1980. Under the plan, calculating retirement pay is based on the average of each service member's highest 36 months of basic pay multiplied by 2.5 percent of the retiree's years of service.

Before passage of the 1981 NDAA, retirement pay was calculated based upon the retiree's final basic pay multiplied by 2.5 percent of their years of service. The change brought military retirement computation in line with federal civilian service retirement and

helped reduce overall cost.

"A service member's date of initial entry into uniformed service, or DIEUS, determines which retirement plan he or she falls under," said Maj. Jeffrey Keef, chief of estate planning and special pay policy at the air staff.

"Those whose DIEUS date is prior to Sept. 8, 1980 will retire under the Final Pay retirement plan. Those whose DIEUS date is on or after Sept. 8, 1980, will retire under the High Three plan. This means their retirement is computed a different way."

For example, two master sergeants retiring with 20 years of active service on Oct. 1, may fall under two different plans. Under the Final Pay plan, a sergeant who may have signed a delayed enlistment contract on June 4, 1980, and came on active duty Sept. 23,

1980, will calculate their retirement pay as follows: \$2,660 (final basic pay) x 50 percent (multiplier for 20 years) = \$1,330 retired pay. The master sergeant who enlisted and came on active duty Sept. 8, 1980 under the High Three plan, would calculate their retirement pay this way: \$2,422 (average of highest 36 months basic pay) x 50 percent (multiplier for 20 years) = \$1,211 retired pay.

The sergeant retiring under the Final Pay plan would receive about \$119 more per month than the one retiring under the High Three plan. The difference could be greater if they were retiring later or if the person under High Three had been promoted later.

Call the military personnel flight at 452-6255 for more information about military retirement plans.



Community Mailbox

Gridiron greets

Dallas Cowboy legends Tony Hill and Robert Newhouse sign autographs 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday in the Spangdahlem commissary. They will also be in the Bitburg commissary 2-3:30 p.m. and the Bitburg High School 4-5:30 p.m. for a youth football camp.

For more information, call 452-6241.

Auto skills hours

Beginning Sunday at Spangdahlem and Wednesday at Bitburg, the auto skills hours change. New operating hours for Spangdahlem are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday; for Bitburg, closed Monday and Tuesday, noon to 7 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Bulk trash

Because of the Unification Day holiday Tuesday, bulk trash pick up in Spangdahlem and Bitburg military housing, and Herforst and Speicher government-leased housing is rescheduled for Oct. 10. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Andy Harper at 452-5124.

OCSC coffee

The officers' and civilians' spouses' club holds its monthly coffee at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Spang Club. Call Darci Jeffers at 06575-903422 for more information.

Eifel Wanderers

The Eifel Wanderers volksmarching club meets at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Club 2012 on Bitburg.

Nominations for new committee members take place during the meeting. For more information, visit the website at [www.welcome.to/eifel-\(no hyphen\) wanderers](http://www.welcome.to/eifel-(no hyphen) wanderers).



Airman 1st Class Michelle Roquid

Harmony in blue

Members of the Air Force's entertainment troupe, TOPS IN BLUE, harmonize during the show here Sept. 20. This year's performance, titled "If You Believe," included a medley of songs in a variety of styles ranging from big band to pop, country to rhythm and blues, and contemporary Latin to nostalgic rock and roll.

School closures

Spangdahlem Middle School closes Oct. 6 for a teacher in-service day and again Oct. 9 to observe Columbus Day.

Deployed spouses trip

A free trip for deployed spouses and families to the World Expo 2000 in Hannover takes place Oct. 7. People interested in going need to register through their unit key spouse, family support center at 453-7491 or Master Sgt. John Johnston at 452-6422 by Wednesday.

Community theater

ACT-Eifel holds open auditions for its December production of Doris Baizley's adaptation of "A Christmas Carol" in the Spangdahlem comm-unity activity center at 1 p.m. Thursday. Many roles are available for both men and women. Call Robert Benton at 452-5444 or Robert Onsgard at

452-6058 for details.

Child safety seat inspections

The 52nd Fighter Wing Safety Office conducts child safety seat inspections 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 12 in the Spangdahlem base exchange parking lot. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Shelly Barton at 452-7233.

Poster contest

The civil engineer energy office holds an Energy Awareness Month poster drawing contest for children through Oct. 20. Children should submit posters to their school teachers.

Judges will evaluate posters in three areas:

■Message - Energy related, clearly portrayed and apparent.

■Appearance - Neat, well organized and colorful.

■Creativity - Imaginative and original.

The best contributors will be

recognized during a ceremony at 10:30 a.m. Oct. 24 in the officers' club. For more information, call Master Sgt. Tamas Szaloczi at 452-6183.

Boy Scouts

Local troop 161 on Bitburg collects old, worn flags to properly retire them. In addition, the troop seeks merit badge counselors in areas from American business to woodworking. For more information, call Brad Bliss at 06562-932766.

Breast cancer awareness

During Breast Cancer Awareness Month, October, the 52nd Medical Group and Health and Wellness Center host the following activities:

■Education materials in the Spangdahlem commissary Oct. 7.

■Education materials in the Bitburg commissary Oct. 10.

■Free 10-minute massages 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 10-11 in the HAWC.

■Cancer issues discussion Oct. 11 on Health Talk Radio.

■Free walk-in exams in the Bitburg OB/GYN clinic 1-4 p.m. Oct. 17.

■Discussion by a radiologist on mammograms Oct. 20.

■High school health promotion Oct. 24.

■Free walk-in exams in the Bitburg OB/GYN clinic 1-4 p.m. Oct. 31.

For more information, call the HAWC at 453-3161.

Education center news

■Spouses tuition assistance applications are being accepted for Term III, Oct. 23 through Dec. 15. Deadline to submit applications is today. For more information, call 452-6063.

■The next Airman Education and Commissioning Program selection board convenes the last week in March. Application cutoff dates are Jan. 15 and Feb. 28. For more information, call 452-6063.

Movies

All movies play at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Bitburg Castle

Today

The Cell (R)

A child therapist involved in a breakthrough research program is asked to journey inside the mind of comatose serial killer in the hope of saving his latest victim. As she embarks on an uncharted and perilous journey through the psyche of a murderer, an FBI agent must race against time to uncover clues that may help locate the missing girl.

Saturday

The Cell

Sunday

Boys and Girls (PG-13)

From the moment they first meet as kids on an airplane, Jennifer and Ryan set the tone for their life-long relationship: fighting and flirting with equal skill. Over the next few years they meet again developing a real passion for despising one another. But by the time they both get to college, their decade-long antagonism starts turning to friendship, brutally honest, no holds barred, true thing friendship, the kind only one unexpected thing could possibly destroy: Sex.

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Wednesday

The Cell

Thursday

Whatever It Takes (PG-13)

Weaving a web of fake e-mails, plotted phone calls, contrived double dates and mistaken identities, Ryan, Chris, Maggie and Ashley discover that being yourself is always the best scheme, and that sometimes the love of your life is the girl next door-your best friend.

Spangdahlem Skyline

Today

The Kid (PG) (4 p.m.)

Forty-year-old Russ Duritz finds his life turned upside down when he magically meets Rusty - himself as an 8-year-old child.

The Crew (7 p.m.)

There's no place like home, even when it's the ratty Raj Mahal senior citizen residence hotel in yuppie-haven South Beach, Miami. Management's plan to squeeze the tenants out, but they hatch a seemingly simple scheme to save their retirement residence.

Saturday

The In Crowd (PG-13)

Adrien has spent time at a psychiatric hospital, learning to come to terms with a troubled past. Her new job on the staff of a posh country club, is where she meets the "in crowd" - a clique of attractive, wealthy young people who will do anything to protect their group and the lethal secrets they harbor.

Sunday

The In Crowd

Monday

The Crew

Tuesday

The Kid

Closed Wednesday and Thursday

Rothenburg ob der Tauber rich in history

Former Celtic settlement offers ancient architecture, museums, storytelling

By Iris Reiff

52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

There are only a few medieval towns in Germany that are as rich in history as the Franconian town of Rothenburg ob der Tauber.

Located some 420 meters above sea level, overlooking the valley of the Tauber river, its gates, towers and massive walls present a silhouette that never fail to impress its visitors.

Traces of the first settlement by Celts, about 500 BC can be found on the opposite side of the valley, on the Engelsburg. Around 960 AD, Detwang in the Tauber valley was founded and at the same time a citadel was built on the hill above the river. In 1142, Conrad III, the first Hohenstaufen in the king's throne, erected an imperial citadel.

The town that developed from the small borough was awarded its charter (Free Imperial City) by Emperor Rudolph I in 1274. The following one and a half centuries saw the expansion of the town and its territory which was concluded in the early 15th century.

The first walled ring around the town ring dates from the 12th century. The outer town wall with its towers, gates, and battlements date from the 14th century.

At that time the town was a city state with around 155 square miles of land



Courtesy photo

Rothenburg ob der Tauber city hall bears impressive renaissance and gothic architectural features.

embracing 167 villages. In 1544 Rothenburg joined in the Reformation. In the Thirty Years War, it suffered at the hands of a successions of conquerors. The town never recovered and after that time it remained a city state without any economic and political importance.

From the beginning to the end of its status as a Free Imperial City, the town was governed by wealthy patrician families, many of whom belonged to the nobility.

In the course of the Napoleonic wars, Rothenburg was incorporated in Wuerttemberg. Its border location near the Bavarian-Wuerttemberg frontier, remote from busy trade routes, left Rothenburg completely unaffected by the architectural

changes of the last century.

Most famous in Rothenburg is the councilors' Tavern with Meister-truck clock. The tavern was built about 1446. The clock was installed in the gable in 1683 and the Meistertrunk scene added in 1910.

The scene shows when an ex-mayor drank nearly a gallon of wine at one time, saving the town from destruction. The clock is shown at various times daily.

The famous Doll and Toy museum, a 400 square meter exhibition hall, features porcelain as well as wax dolls from 1780 to 1940.

On Whitsunday, armed processions and camps present aspects of the Thirty Year War.

Shepherd's Dance is a treat for the ears and eyes during a historical festival in August-September. Or visit the Reichstadt museum, the medieval Criminal museum in the Historical Vaults and the Franconian Craftsman's House.

Although Rothenburg is full of history, it also offers everything that a modern city enjoys, such as sports and other fun activities. Some leisure activities are flying and gliding, fishing, tennis and bowling, open-air or indoor bathing, cross country riding, camping and more.

The harmony which exists in Rothenburg's surroundings should also not be forgotten. The magnificence of imperial Franconian towns can be seen in Nuremberg, Feuchtwangen, Dinkelsbuehl, Bad Windsheim and other nearby towns.

Out and about



■Eifel Classic features numerous car races and 550 classical sports and race cars at the Nuerburgring race track today through Sunday. Call 0221-4727703 for details.

■Visit a flea market Sunday along the Traben-Trarbach Mosel shore; inside the Muelheim/Mosel industrial area; in front of the Trier-Pallien Fachhochschule school located on B50; on Trier-West Horn street, located near the Aldi store; as a part of the Alf wine festival; at the Kaiser-slauren Messeplatz area; and at the Gerolstein 'Am Drink In'.

■A doll market takes place Sunday at the Koblenz Rhein-Mosel hall.

■An art-handcraft and farmer's market takes place Sunday in Kirm. Stores will be open throughout that day in Kirm.

■Attend the Trier Mosel-land exhibition Saturday through Oct. 8 at the Trier Messepark. Call 0651-147230 for details.

■An antique market takes place 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday in the Trier Europa hall as does a computer auction.

■A special classical concert by

the Weimar Staatskapelle, state orchestra, takes place at 8 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday in the Grosse Haus of the City Theater. The concert features famous classical compositions. Tick-ets sell quickly and must be reserved at 0651-718-1818. The ticket price ranges from 39-69 DM.

■A classical concert by Francesco Tristano Schlime on piano, in conjunction with the Luxembourg Echnernach Fest-ival, takes place at 7 p.m. Oct. 8 in the Bitburg Beda Haus cultural center. For details and tickets, call 06561-96450.

■Join the child development center Oct. 13-14 for a Poland shopping express trip. Cost is \$65 for a single seat and \$85 for a double. There's a 12 DM border-crossing fee. Call 06561-683943 by Sunday to register.

■A crystal shopping trip to Neustadt and Karlsbad takes place Oct. 14. Cost is \$80 for a double seat. Call Adrienne Williams at 452-6487 or 0172-682-2284 for reservations and more information.

■Attend the Magic of the Dance show Oct. 14 in the Bitburg Edith Stein School. Call 06727-952333 for tickets, which are

limited.

■A trip to Groesbeek-Nijmegen, Holland, with the WW II Society in Europe takes place Oct. 28. Register for the trip at the community activity center. A meeting about the tour takes place 11 a.m. Sept. 29 in the activities center. Call Ed Lapotsky at 06507-802616.

■Celebrate the Wittlich October festival Oct. 19 through Nov. 12 at a festival tent near the Burgert depart-ment store, located on Industriegebiet 3. The event features Bavarian music and food.

■Trier sponsors weekly markets all day Tuesday, and Friday mornings, on Vieh-market Platz, located in the pedestrian zone. At the market people can find fresh fruit, vegetables and flowers.

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Information, Tickets and Tours offers the following tours in September and October. For details, call the Spangdahlem community center at 452-6567 or the Bitburg annex community center at 453-7120.

■Oktoberfest express, Saturday, \$69 per person.

■Cannstatter Wasen Oktoberfest in Stuttgart, Saturday, \$50 per person.

■Oktoberfest, one over-night, Saturday to Sunday, \$195 per person.

■Paris express, Saturday, \$89 for adults, \$75 for children ages 3-17.

■Jessolo Beach, Italy, three overnights, Thursday through Oct. 9, \$235 per person.

■Cochem medieval dinner, Oct. 7, \$65 per person.

■Dinner and wineprobe, Oct. 14, \$35 per person.

■London express, Oct. 13-14, \$99 for adults, \$89 for children ages 3-12.

■Poland express, Oct. 13-14, \$65 for single seat, \$85 for double.

■Paris, one overnight, Oct. 21-22, \$185 for adults, \$130 for children ages 3-12.

■Ikea furniture and

accessories shopping, Oct. 21, \$20 per person.

■Paris express, Oct. 28, \$89 for adults, \$75 for children ages 3-17.

■Brussels express, Oct. 28, \$39 for adults, \$35 for children ages 3-12.

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The outdoor recreation program sponsors the following trips in September and October. For details, call 452-7176.

■Luxembourg City bicycle tour Saturday — Bike around Luxembourg City visiting many of the old wall fortifications, forts, interior parks and an American World War II cemetery. Transportation and tour fees included. Minimum age is 14. Cost is \$35 per person with bicycle rental, \$30 without rental.

■Mosel River pontoon boat cruise Saturday — Leave outdoor recreation via a shuttle van for Poelich. The cruise lasts six to seven hours. Minimum age is 8. Cost is \$25 per person.

Eifel sports world

Eifel Mountain Golf

■The Three Club Tournament takes place 9 a. m. Saturday. Cost is \$10 plus green fees.

■The annual Turkey Shoot Golf Tournament takes place Nov. 18. Cost is \$10 plus green fees. Call 452-6821 for details.

Eifel Lanes

The base bowling center, building 300, reopens Monday. Call 452-6217 for league or recreational bowling information.

Intramural Volleyball

Season begins 5:30 p.m. Monday at the Spangdahlem fitness center. Tryouts for team players continue through the season. Volleyball officials and scorekeepers are also needed. Call 452-6634 for team information. Call Tomas Villegas at 06575-8495 to volunteer as an official or scorekeeper.

Customer Appreciation

The Saber's Edge discounts its inventory by 10 percent Monday through Oct. 6. Call 452-6635 for details.

Run/Walk Race

The annual Turkey Trot 5k running and walking event takes place Nov. 17. Call 452-6634 for details.

Cardiovascular workout

Aerobics classes are offered at the Spangdahlem and Bitburg fitness centers. Cost is \$25 monthly or \$3 per class. Aerobics instructors are also needed. Call the base fitness center at 452-6634 or the Bitburg fitness center at 453-7710 for class schedules or instructor information.

Coaches needed

Youth soccer and football coaches and officials are needed for the 2000-2001 season. Call youth programs at 453-6267 for more information.

Fitness Center news

Spangdahlem

■Strength and resistance training classes take place 9 a.m. Friday. Cost is \$3 per class or \$25 monthly.

■Kickboxing aerobics class takes place 6:30 a.m. Monday and Wednesday, and 8 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday. Cost is \$3 per class or \$25 monthly.

■Kempo and Jui Jitsu classes take place 5 p.m. Wednesday. Cost is \$25 monthly. Call 452-6496 for details.

Bitburg

■Aerobics classes take place 9 a.m. Monday for interval aerobics, 9 a.m. Wednesday for step aerobics, 9 a.m. Friday for combo aerobics. Step aerobics class also takes place 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

The Bitburg fitness center opens 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. base down days and holidays. It's closed Saturday and Sunday. Call 453-7710 for details.

Spang member finishes first in annual Air Force Marathon

By 1st Lt. Angela Johnson
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A 52nd Component Repair Squadron member was a first place finisher among nearly 3,000 runners who participated in the fourth annual Air Force Marathon at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio on Sept. 16.

Captain Jill Metzger was the first Air Force woman to finish and fourth overall in the women's division with a 3:16:17.

"My hard work and sacrifices finally paid off," said Metzger when asked how it felt to be the first AF woman to cross the finish line. "I'm glad I tied all the other women's shoe laces together, too," she joked.

Metzger was also a member of the USAFE team which took 3rd in the Military category and 5th overall in the teams division.

"I represented USAFE in the overall team times," said Metzger. "Our times were added together for an overall time - we ran 131 miles accumulative."

Metzger was chosen to run for the USAFE team shortly after arriving in Spangdahlem in late May.

To prepare for the marathon she averaged close to 90 miles a week; 70 miles of running each weekday and then a long run of about 22 miles on Saturday. "I take Sunday off to eat, rest and pig-out - it's my day to be a couch potato — and my favorite day," explained Metzger.

She was one of only 221 people who have run the AF Marathon all four years - as well as running five other marathons.

"It's very rewarding to see all the civilians who have had no previous exposure to our service enjoy the event and learn something about the military at the same time," said Metzger.

The Air Force's Special Tactics and Rescue Specialists parachute demonstration team jumped from a C-130 overhead as the runners lined up at the starting line. F. Whitten Peters, secretary of the Air Force, started the event after flyovers by a Wright B Flyer and C-17 Globemaster III.



Katie Johnson

Runners file past rows of retired aircraft in the final two-tenths of a mile of the Air Force Marathon held Sept. 16 on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

More than 1,800 volunteers helped with this year's marathon and plans are already in motion for next year's event according to Tom Fisher, marathon director.

"The date (for next year's marathon) is Sept. 22, 2001," said Fisher. "The race is open to the world and helps build a great partnership between us and the community. This marathon is a way for them to meet military members as people and realize they like to stay fit and have fun."

Spangdahlem members are encouraged to begin training early if they wish to participate in next year's marathon.

"Preparation is key to success," said Metzger. "Like anything done in the AF, you have to do your homework, research and prepare. In order to run long distances, a person should gradually increase mileage every few weeks. You can't go out and run 20 miles without preparation and training. Injuries are prone to occur when a runner lacks patience and preparation."

"Good nutrition is important. I like to eat a lot of carbohydrates — beer is a good one — and potassium. These are great fuel for your body."

Barons claim first-game victory

By Rik Carr
Bitburg High Barons

Bitburg High School's football team owned the Mannheim Bisons last season and that dominance continued into the 2000 season.

In the Barons opener, they easily defended their 1999 crown by downing the Bisons Sept. 22.

Returning All-Europe quarter-back Nick Johnson got the game rolling for the Barons in the second quarter when he threw a 34-yard pass to slot back Charlie Pierce setting up a nine-yard pass to split end Josh Blake.

Four plays later nose guard JD Alvarado recovered a Mannheim fumble to give the Barons another scoring opportunity. Again, Johnson hooked up with Blake for 26 yards and All-Europe running back Billy Freeland rumbled in from one yard out to give the Barons a 12-6 lead.

On the next series, the Barons again threatened after two big Mannheim penalties gave the Barons great field position. Johnson then threw a strike to split end Travis Carr for a 26 yard score. Johnson finished it off with a two-point conversion pass to Pierce giving the Barons a 20-6 halftime lead.

Both teams had a difficult time putting any points on the board in the second half because of slippery, wet field conditions. Mannheim did get a pass off early in the fourth quarter. The Baron defender went for the interception, but Bison receiver was able to get to the ball and run in for the score.

Defensively, Bitburg shut down the Bison running game allowing only 27 yards on 19 rushes in the first half. In the second half the Bisons opened their passing game and were able to get 45 yards on 5 rushes and compete 9 of 23 passes for 86 yards.

Three interceptions, two by Pierce and one by Blake and numerous sacks behind the line of scrimmage forced the Bisons to usually play three-down football and punt.

The Barons face the International School of Brussels next at Brussels tomorrow.

Junior varsity

The Barons JV squad also took it to the Mannheim Bisons 18-6.

Quarterback Hector Gonzalez threw two TD passes, the first a 12-yard strike to Ryan Thomas, and the other an eight-yard score to Zach Pierce. Fullback Braden Blake ran six yards for the final Baron score.

Like the varsity, the JV scored all their points in the second quarter. Scott Parry, Chris Reynolds and Blake led the defense that allowed only one score that actually came off an offensive mistake.